



NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY  
FORT GEORGE G. MEADE, MARYLAND 20755-6000

FOIA Case: 106802  
7 May 2019

MUCKROCK NEWS  
DEPT MR 72075  
411A HIGHLAND AVE  
SOMERVILLE MA 02144

Dear Mr. Scott:

This responds to your Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request of 21 April 2019, which was received by this office on 22 April 2019, for the following:

- 1.) "All documents, records, or communications referencing or containing communications between/among Taylor Scott Amarel and any of the following: Julian Assange, Wikileaks, Kim Dotcom, or Michael Cohen.
- 2.) All correspondence received from or sent to any member of Congress (or anyone representing a member of Congress or Congressional committee) referencing, mentioning, or otherwise including Taylor Scott Amarel in any way.
- 3.) All correspondence received from or sent to any member of the United States Securities and Exchange Commission referencing, mentioning, or otherwise including Taylor Scott Amarel in any way."

Your request has been assigned Case Number 106802. Please refer to this number should you need to contact us about this request. For purposes of this request and based on the information you provided in your letter, you are considered an "all other" requester. There are no assessable fees for this request.

Regarding **Item 1**, we have interpreted this portion of your request to be for intelligence records on you, Julian Assange, Wikileaks, Kim Dotcom, and/or Michael Cohen. For reasons described below, we are not able to confirm or deny the existence of intelligence records on any and all individuals who request them.

NSA collects and provides intelligence derived from foreign communications to policymakers, military commanders, and law enforcement officials. We do this to help these individuals protect the security of the United States, its allies, and their citizens from threats such as terrorism, weapons of mass destruction, foreign espionage, international organized crime, and other

hostile activities. What we are authorized to do, and how we do it, is described in Executive Order 12333. Information about how NSA conducts signals intelligence activities is available on the websites of NSA ([www.nsa.gov](http://www.nsa.gov)) and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence ([www.dni.gov](http://www.dni.gov)).

To respond to your request, NSA would have to confirm or deny the existence of intelligence records on you, Julian Assange, Wikileaks, Kim Dotcom, and/or Michael Cohen. Were we to do so in your case, we would have to do so for every other requester. This would enable, for example, a terrorist or other adversary to file a FOIA request with us in order to determine whether he or she was under surveillance or had evaded it. This in turn would allow that individual to better assess whether they could successfully act to damage the national security of the United States. For such reasons, we can neither confirm nor deny the existence or non-existence of the records you requested.

The FOIA exempts several categories of information from disclosure. Its first exemption indicates that it does not apply to matters that are authorized by Executive Order to be kept secret and properly classified in the interest of national defense or foreign relations. The fact of the existence or non-existence of intelligence records on any individual, including yourself, would reveal a connection or interest that is an appropriately classified matter. Paragraph 3.6(a) of Executive Order 13526 ("Classified National Security Information") specifically authorizes this type of response, also known as a Glomar response, to such requests made under the FOIA.

Moreover, the third exemption under the FOIA authorizes the withholding of information specifically protected from disclosure by statute. The fact of the existence or non-existence of records responsive to your request is currently exempted from disclosure by the following statutes: Title 18 U.S. Code 798; Title 50 U.S. Code 3024(i); and Section 6, Public Law 86-36 (50 U.S. Code 3605).

Regarding **Items 2 and 3** of this request, a thorough search of our files was conducted, but no records responsive to these portions your request were located.

You may appeal this decision. If you decide to appeal, you should do so in the manner outlined below. NSA will endeavor to respond within 20 working days of receiving any appeal, absent any unusual circumstances.

- The appeal must be sent via U.S. postal mail, fax, or electronic delivery (e-mail) and addressed to:

NSA FOIA/PA Appeal Authority (P132)  
National Security Agency  
9800 Savage Road STE 6932

Fort George G. Meade, MD 20755-6932

The facsimile number is 443-479-3612.

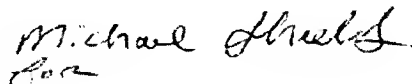
The appropriate email address to submit an appeal is  
FOIARSC@nsa.gov.

- It must be postmarked or delivered electronically no later than 90 calendar days from the date of this letter. Decisions appealed after 90 days will not be addressed.
- Please include the case number provided above.
- Please describe with sufficient detail why you believe the denial of requested information was unwarranted.

You may also contact our FOIA Public Liaison at foialo@nsa.gov for any further assistance and to discuss any aspect of your request. Additionally, you may contact the Office of Government Information Services (OGIS) at the National Archives and Records Administration to inquire about the FOIA mediation services they offer. The contact information for OGIS is as follows:

Office of Government Information Services  
National Archives and Records Administration  
8601 Adelphi Rd- OGIS  
College Park, MD 20740  
ogis@nara.gov  
877-684-6448  
(Fax) 202-741-5769

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael Shultz" with a flourish underneath.

JOHN R. CHAPMAN  
Chief, FOIA/PA Office  
NSA Initial Denial Authority